



CELEBRATION OF THE NATION

South Australia last night reinforced its 'Small V' dumped in onslaught

The reigning champion embarrassed the once-Big V with a commanding 15.12 (102) to 6.6 (42) annihilation at Football Park.

The prestige Bicentennial Carnival title was never challenged by a Victorian outfit made to look appallingly slow and disorganised.

SA powered its way to victory after a sensational opening term that saw it pile on 8.5 to a paltry 1.0.

The Victorians were rattled — and the SA boys pressed home their advantage with some brutal, unmerciful play.

Pint-sized rover John Platten blitzed the Victorians around the pack and absolutely destroyed Vic captain Dale Weightman.

Stephen Kernahan was supreme in the air and booted six goals to the SA's most potent force attack.

He, Platten (three goals) and Tony Hall (three goals) left the Victorian defence in tatters.

Garry McIntosh hurt his opponent every time he got near the ball, Mark Mickan was a dynamo in ruck, and Martin Leslie and Matthew Campbell were devastating in defence.

It was an emotional win for SA, which despite going it alone and steering clear of the near national VFL competition, still can hold its head high as the supreme football state.

Even though the match did not attract a capacity crowd, the jubilant SA fans greeted their heroes with the chant of "We are the champions" throughout the presentation ceremony.

SA won the toss and kicked to the northern end, which was favored by a three to four-goal breeze.

It started without three of the players who helped SA to a narrow win against NSW on Thursday night.

Russell Johnston, Andrew Rogers and Dwayne Russell were omitted to make way for Garry McIntosh, Matthew Campbell and former SA captain Michael Aish.

The Vics also made changes to the side that steamrolled WA on Wednesday.

Rovers Barry Mitchell and Ross Smith were dropped and Gary Pert

By Lawrie McCauley

(drained knee) and David Rhys-Jones (wrist) had to be replaced.

The incoming Victorians were Dermott Brereton, David Bolton, Brian Royal and Russell Morris.

Morris made a quick impact on the game when he scored the first goal, after just one minute of play.

However, what was to follow for the rest of the first quarter was nothing short of sensational.

SA, which went into the division one grand final as underdog after its sluggish opening to the carnival, suddenly went berserk.

An avalanche of goals headed SA's way as the home side completely outclassed their opposition and dominated facets of play.

By the end of the first term it led by a remarkable 47 points, 8.5 to 1.0.

SA's vice captain Stephen Kernahan began the goal onslaught with a morale boosting snap after wrestling the ball out of the pack from a boundary throw-in.

He and SA captain Chris McDermott each recorded a major.

But the real threats up forward were Bruce Lindner, John Platten and Tony Hall, who scored two goals apiece.

They cut a timid Victorian defence to pieces.

Their task was being made easier by the sensational work in the centre square by McIntosh, Mark Mickan, Craig Bradley and the rovers.

They didn't give their opposite numbers a look in.

Victorian centreman Greg Williams was rarely sighted. The only time he got involved in the action was when he had the misfortune to run up against McIntosh.

Williams had clashed heavily with an SA player and McIntosh retaliated. However, he appeared to have been reported by Victorian umpire Rowan Sawers.

That was the start of some heated and spiteful confrontation, with the Victorians looking more and more frustrated as the irrepressible SA goalfeast continued.

Any form of Victorian comeback would be aided by the freshening breeze — but the players appeared shell-shocked for most of the second term.

While SA players maintained total commitment, inspired teamwork and scintillating speed around the ground, the Vics were reduced to bumbling amateurs chasing guernseys.

Brereton was brought on to start the second term at centre half-forward and started a one-man campaign to iron out the SA side.

He clashed heavily with Mark Naley but soon after faced retribution from both Danny Hughes and Martin Leslie.

Brereton came off second best and was dragged from the field just before half time.

That move was greeted with almost as much spontaneous applause as when he was dragged off last year when thrashed by Andrew Rogers.

Despite the use of the stiff breeze, both sides scored 2.1 for the term.

Platten, easily the best of all on the ground and Hall each booted a goal to bring their tally to three for the match.

Half time scores were SA 10.6 to Victoria 3.1.

Giant Victorian full forward Paul Salmon got his side off to a good start in the third quarter when he booted an early goal.

His seven goal haul against WA stemmed him as the dangerman for SA.

But he goaled with only his second kick of the evening after being humbled by Hughes.

But again SA responded. Kernahan capitalised on his extraordinary aerial strength to take control close to goal.

Three times he soared above the Victorian defenders and three times he added the final touch by kicking a goal.

The Victorians, who had promised so much prior to the match in the name of state pride, were made to look second rate. They were slow, could hear footsteps (usually McIntosh's) and were in a state of panic. Brereton returned to the field — but was a liability.

He apparently took a dislike to Martin Leslie and yet again came off second best in each confrontation.



Pictures: Ray Titus, Kevin Bull, Dennis Rogers

ITS OURS... All Australian captain Stephen Kernahan holds the trophy with (from left) Bruce Lindner, Mark Mickan, John Platten and Tony Burgess

Cornes: We proved a point



SA captain Chris McDermott holds the title trophy aloft

TRIUMPHANT SA coach Graham Cornes said criticism of SA's mediocre semi-finals performance against NSW had given his players extra motivation for last night's showdown against Victoria.

SA had struggled to beat NSW by 21 points in last Thursday's clash but Cornes said he was confident the team would lift for last night's game.

"I think there was a lack of loyalty shown by some areas of the media," Cornes said.

"But it served as a motivational spur for our players."

Cornes said the win carried extra significance as it gave SA its second consecutive Australian championship.

"This win was very special," he said.

"No one can say we won the championship easily like last year when we beat an undermanned WA side.

"Tonight we were able to move the ball quickly and directly and we had two strong focal points in attack."

SA captain CHRIS McDERMOTT agreed with Cornes' feelings on the media criticism.

"A lot had been written about us suggesting we had no hope," he said. "But the players just continued to believe in themselves."

"There was 22 players out there who did so much for 120 minutes."

Victorian captain DALE WEIGHTMAN, best on ground in the Vics' semi final win against WA, said it was one of the worst Victorian efforts he had been associated with.

"I don't think we could ever play that badly again," he said.

"We just weren't able to do the disciplined things which won us the game against WA."

"They won the toss and charged right away from us. Their small men ran us into the ground."

Victorian coach BILL GOGGIN said he was "most disappointed" but praised SA's performance.

"Their game was most outstanding."

"We chose our best side possible but couldn't keep up with them."

"They were able to take the ball away from centre continually and win the ball around the packs."

"We were down all over the ground. We made mistakes and made things twice as hard for ourselves."

"It was one of those nights. It was a real annihilation and we can do nothing except take it on the chin."

Giant Victorian full forward Paul Salmon has been named as the Tassie medal winner for the Bicentennial football championships.

Salmon, named as the All Australian goalsneak, is the first Victorian winner since Dale Weightman in 1985.

The Eric Tassie medal has been awarded to the best and fairest player in division one championships since 1937.

Salmon booted seven goals against WA in a brilliant exhibition on Wednesday but was held by SA fullback Danny Hughes to just three kicks and one goal last night.

Div 1 grand final

SA	8.5	10.6	13.8	15.12	(102)
VICTORIA	1.0	3.1	5.4	6.6	(42)

BEST— SA: Platten, Kernahan, McIntosh, Leslie, Mickan, Campbell, Hall, Hughes. VICTORIA: Healy, Roos, Madden.

GOALS— SA: Kernahan 6.0, Platten 3.2, Hall 3.1, Lindner 2.3, McDermott 1.1, McGuinness 0.1, rushed 0.4. VICTORIA: Morris 2.0, Weightman 1.1, Salmon 1.1, Royal 1.0, Osborne 1.0, Daicos 0.1, Williams 0.1, rushed 0.2. Umpires — Laurie Argent (SA), Rowan Sawers (VFL).

Div 1 consolation

NSW	4.2	4.3	7.6	10.8	(68)
WA	0.0	3.7	5.7	9.12	(66)

BEST— NSW: Thrupp, Cordy, T Daniher, Murphy, O'Donoghue, Scott. WA: Mainwaring, Buckenara, Malaxos, Mifka, Laidley.

GOALS— NSW: Scott 2.1, Thrupp 2.0, Brownless 1.2, T Daniher 1.2, Bradmore 1.0, O'Donoghue 1.0, Morwood 1.0, Hawke 1.0, Wright 0.1, rushed 0.2. WA: Buchenara 2.1, Dean 1.1, Wrensted 1.1, Lockyer 1.1, Bairstow 1.0, Richardson 1.0, Mifka 1.0, Scott 1.0, Winmar 0.2, Mainwaring 0.1, Laidley 0.1, rushed 0.4. Umpires: P O'Reilly (WA), R Castle (NSW).

Our nine in Aussie team

NINE South Australians were named in the All Australian team after SA's magnificent 15.12 (102) to 6.6 (42) Bicentennial Carnival win over Victoria at Football Park last night.

Former Glenelg star Stephen Kernahan was named captain.

The other SA members chosen were Danny Hughes, Martin Leslie, Greg Whittlesea, Tony Hall, Bruce Lindner, John Platten, Mark Mickan and Tony McGuinness.

Coach is Glenelg's Graham Cornes for the second time after twice being named as a player.

It is the first time Hughes, Leslie, Whittlesea, Hall, Mickan and McGuinness have been named.

Kernahan was chosen in 1985 and 1986, Lindner was chosen in 1987, while Platten was named for the fourth successive year.

Representation from other States was Victoria six, NT three, NSW two, VFA and WA one.

The team:

Backs: S Malaxos (WA), D Hughes (SA), M Leslie (SA).

Half-backs: D Frawley (Vic), P Roos (Vic), G Whittlesea (SA).

Centre: D Murphy (NSW), I Wallaco (VFA), M McLean (NT).

Half-forwards: T Daniher (NSW), S Kernahan (Capt) (SA), T Hall (SA).

Forwards: D Weightman (Vic), P Salmon (Vic), B Lindner (SA).

1st Ruck: S Madden (Vic), G Healey (Vic), J Platten (SA).

Interchange: M Mickan (SA), T McGuinness (SA), M Long (NT), M Rioli (NT).